

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /060 W

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R 041811Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9093

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 7589

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR REF (C)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJECT: ANTUNES SPEECH DRAWS FIRE

REF: (A) LISBON 7541 (DTG 031833Z NOV 76), (B) LISBON A-224

DATED SEPT 3, 1976 (NOTAL)), (C) FBIIS LD032320Y

SUMMARY: MELO ANTUNES'S RENEWED ADVOCACY OF AN ACTIVE MILITARY  
ROLE IN POLITICS DREW A STRONG REACTION FROM AIR FORCE  
CHIEF MORAIS DA SILVA AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES.

ANTUNES'S MANY OPPONENTS WILL KEEP THE CONTROVERSY ALIVE,  
AND THE PRESIDENT MAY FEEL OBLIGED TO RESPOND TO  
WHAT IS BEING PERCEIVED AS A CHALLENGE.

HOWEVER, EANES'S DIPLOMATIC AIDE TOLD POLCOUNS NOV 4

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THAT HE DOUBTED EANES WOULD SEEK CONFRONTATION OVER THIS

ISSUE. EANES HAS THE VOTES IN THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, KNOWS THAT ANTUNES DOES NOT HAVE A MAJORITY IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION, AND WOULD PROBABLY PREFER TO SEE ANTUNES SELF-DESTRUCT. END SUMMARY.

1. REACTIONS TO ANTUNES'S SPEECH: MILITARY AND CIVILIAN FIGURES REACTED STRONGLY TO MELO ANTUNES'S ADVOCACY OF A CONTINUING MILITARY ROLE IN POLITICS DURING HIS NOV 2 SPEECH AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION (CC) INSTALLATION (REF A).

-- AIR FORCE CHIEF MORAIS DA SILVA: "ANTUNES'S SPEECH WAS A MANEUVER WHICH SOUGHT TO REVIVE THE VANGUARD ROLE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC). ANTUNES SOUGHT TO GIVE THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION FUNCTIONS WHICH ARE NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE CONSTITUTION; INTERVENE IN THE AFFAIRS OF SOVEREIGN BODIES; AND MOST SERIOUSLY, UNDERMINE THE PRESTIGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

-- LISBON MILITARY GOVERNOR VASCO LOURENCO: "I LIKED ANTUNES'S SPEECH. I DO NOT KNOW WHY MORAIS DA SILVA MADE HIS COMMENTS."

-- PRESIDENT EANES: "WHATEVER MORAIS DA SILVA SAID IS HIS OWN OPINION."

-- CABINET SPOKESMAN MANUEL ALEGRE: "THE NOV 3 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING DISCUSSED MELO ANTUNES'S SPEECH. I AGREE COMPLETELY WITH PRESIDENT EANES'S REJECTION OF PARALLEL POWERS. THE PS CONGRESS REJECTED MILITARIZED DEMOCRACY. THERE IS NO MID-POINT BETWEEN DEMOCRACY AND DICTATORSHIP."

-- SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PSD) POLITICAL COMMITTEE: "ANTUNES'S REMARKS REVIVED OUTDATED IDEAS OF MILITARY HEGEMONY AND INTERFERED WITH SOVEREIGN ELECTED BODIES."

-- CDS VICE PRESIDENT AMARO DA COSTA: "ANTUNES'S SPEECH WAS DESTABILIZING AND INTENDED TO DIMINISH THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRESIDENT."

2. RC SPOKESMAN CPT SOUSA E CASTRO TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE COUNCIL HAD DISCUSSED ANTUNES'S SPEECH AND THAT MORAIS DA SILVA HAD EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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STRONG VIEWS. THE RC STATEMENT ISSUED FOLLOWING THE MEETING NOTED THAT IN ADDITION IT HAD:

-- APPROVED IN GENERAL FORM A MILITARY AMNESTY DECREE AND CHARGED THE SERVICE CHIEFS WITH PREPARING THE FINAL VERSION.

-- DISCUSSED THE POLITICAL SITUATION AND NOTED THAT THE INSTALLATION OF THE CC FULFILLED THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR THE RC TO CARRY OUT ITS CONSTITUTIONAL MISSION.

-- TOOK SEVERAL MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF SERGEANTS.

-- PROMOTED BG'S DUARTE SILVA (MILITARY GOVERNOR OF MADEIRA) AND THEMUDO BARATA TO GENERAL.

-- PROMOTED THE FOLLOWING, AMONG OTHERS, FROM COLONEL TO BRIGADIER GENERAL: REVOLUTIONARY COUNSELORS FRANCO CHARAIS AND GARCIA DOS SANTOS (CHIEF OF PRESIDENTIAL MILITARY HOUSEHOLD) AND SOUTHERN MILITARY REGION COMMANDER ARTUR BAPTISTA BEIRAO.

3. COMMENT: MORAIS DA SILVA TOLD CHARGE AND DATT NOV 2 (BEFORE ANTUNES'S SPEECH) THAT THE RC WAS DIVIDED AND THAT HE OPPOSED STRONGLY THE FACTION LED BY MELO ANTUNES. MORAIS DA SILVA SAID THE SITUATION WAS CURRENTLY A STAND-OFF. HIS GROUP WOULD TAKE NO ACTION AGAINST THE MELO ANTUNES SUPPORTERS AS LONG AS THE RC CONTNUES TO DO NOTHING SIGNIFICANT. MORAIS DA SILVA DID NOT FAVOR MAKING CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION IN THE RC BECAUSE OF THE INEVITABLE POLITICKING WHICH WOULD RESULT WITHIN THE MILITARY.

4. ANTUNES'S MANY OPPONENTS WILL KEEP THE CONTROVERSY CAUSED BY HIS REMARKS ALIVE. THE PERCEIVED CHALLENGE TO THE PRESIDENT COULD LEAD TO A RESPONSE FROM EANES (REF A). HOWEVER, EANES'S DIPLOMATIC AIDE TOLD POL COUNS NOV 4 THAT HE DOUBTED EANES WOULD SEEK CONFRONTATION OVER THIS ISSUE. HE SAID EANES HAS THE VOTES IN THE RC, KNOWS THAT ANTUNES DOES NOT HAVE A MAJORITY IN THE CC, AND WOULD PROBABLY PREFER TO SEE ANTUNES SELF-DESTRUCT.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, SPEECHES, MILITARY PLANS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 NOV 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X4  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 LISBON 7541, 76 LISBON A-224  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ANTUNES SPEECH DRAWS FIRE  
**TAGS:** PINT, PO, (ANTUNES, MELO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006